

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] The above objects are achieved with an absorbent article of the type mentioned in the introduction, which article is arranged such that each side barrier is arranged such that, when it is secured in contact with said front portion, it defines each side barrier and the top sheet define a folded structure of substantially Z-shaped cross section with a fold directed towards the inside of said article.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] The invention affords certain advantages. In particular, it should be noted that the invention provides the possibility of making available an absorbent article such as a diaper which is easy to place on small children, which provides a good fit and which provides good leakage protection both laterally and at the rear of the diaper. The invention also provides a combined function of lateral leakage protection and leg elastic, thereby permitting savings in terms of material and making the article light and flexible for the user. It may be noted in particular that the above-mentioned narrowing shape of the elastic elements of the side barriers, in combination with the Z-shaped folded attachment of each side barrier [[in]] to the front portion of the article, means that each side barrier, during use, is raised very distinctly and effectively in relation to the surface of the diaper. In addition, a cup shape is thus formed which adapts in a reliable manner to the user's anatomy and contributes to the good fit. In addition, a diaper designed according to the invention is simple and inexpensive to produce.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] The invention will be described below with reference to preferred embodiment and to the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of an absorbent article in the form of a diaper, in which an embodiment of the present invention can be used;

Figure 2 shows a diagrammatic and somewhat simplified top view of the diaper according to Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a slightly enlarged perspective view of the rear part of the diaper according to Figures 1 and 2; and

Figure 4 shows a cross-sectional view of the side barrier, when it is secured in contact with the front portion, ~~that defines~~ the side barrier and top sheet defining a folded structure of substantially Z-shaped cross section according to Figures 1-3.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] It will further be seen from FIG. 1 that each side barrier 8, 9 is arranged in such a way that it is secured in contact with said front portion 5 of the diaper. More precisely, each side barrier 8, 9 is secured in such a way that ~~it defines~~ each side barrier 8, 9 and the top sheet 2 define a structure of substantially Z-shaped cross section, i.e., the side barriers 8, 9 are folded in contact with the front edge such that the side barriers 8, 9 and secured in the top sheet 2 define this Z-shaped form. This feature, which will be described in more detail with reference to FIG. 4, helps the diaper 1 open out easily when being used. The rear barrier 16 is also designed to enclose the user's buttocks in an advantageous way between the two side barriers 8, 9 which, at the rear of the diaper 1, are placed at a relatively great distance from each other. In addition, this design of the rear barrier 16 affords a secure seal against leakage of excrement and urine rearwards and over the rear edge of the diaper 1. A further advantage of this design is that the diaper 1 is very easy to fit on the user.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] As can be seen from FIGS. 1 and 2, the rear part of each side barrier 8, 9 is designed so that it forms an outwardly folded and essentially open, cup-shaped structure by virtue of the fact that the first elastic element 10 is attached to the rear of the diaper 1 at a point 10b which, viewed from above, lies outside the attachment point 11b for the second elastic element 11 and the first longitudinal fold 8a. Correspondingly, the attachment point 14b for the third elastic element 14 lies outside the attachment point 15b for the fourth elastic element 15 and outside the second longitudinal fold 9a. In this way, the side barriers 8, 9 will lift effectively and form a cup-like structure during use. This is facilitated by the fact that the respective side barrier 8, 9 additionally comprises two longitudinal elastic elements each (10, 11 and 14, 15, respectively). The narrowing geometry in the forward direction defined by the side barriers 8, 9 and the elastic elements 10, 11, 14, 15, and the Z-shaped

~~attachment~~ Z shape at the front, also contribute to stretching and lifting the side barriers 8, 9.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] The Z-shaped structure ~~at the front part of~~ defined by the top sheet 2 and each side barrier 8, 9 can be seen clearly from Figure 4, which is a somewhat simplified and diagrammatic view of a cross section through the diaper 1, viewed at the front edge of the diaper 1, as is indicated by the line I-I in Figure 1. The left-hand part of Figure 4 shows an imaginary situation during production and shaping of the structure to give the Z-shaped configuration. The right-hand part of Figure 4 shows the structure after it has been folded. Figure 4 shows how the first side barrier 8 is folded and also supports the first elastic element 10 and the second elastic element 11. Correspondingly, the second side barrier 9 is folded and supports the third elastic element 14 and the fourth elastic element 15. Two folds 22, 23 are thus formed in the respective side barrier 8, 9, namely a first fold 22 in the first side barrier 8 and a second fold 23 in the second side barrier 9. These folds 22, 23 are directed towards the inside of the diaper 1, i.e., in the direction towards an imaginary longitudinal axis of symmetry of the diaper 1. The inner elastic elements 11, 15, i.e., the second elastic element 11 and the fourth elastic element 15, are thus positioned at or near the respective fold 22, 23 which is formed. The other elastic threads 10, 14 are then applied where suitable between the inner threads 11, 15 and the outermost edge of the respective side barrier 8, 9.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] The side barriers 8, 9 are arranged such that their respective front portion is ~~folded in~~ and the top sheet 2 define a Z shape, the front part of the second elastic element 11 and the fourth elastic element 15 being positioned in contact with the inner folds 22, 23. The rear part of the respective side barrier 8, 9, however, defines no such ~~Z-shaped fold~~ Z shape but instead forms raised side walls which contribute to the cup-shaped and leaktight rear part 7 of the diaper 1. The fact that the side barriers 8, 9 are folded out in the rear portion 7 of the diaper 1 and ~~are folded in~~ define a Z shape ~~[[in]]~~ with the front portion 5 of the diaper 1 ensures a good fit of the diaper 1. The diaper 1 is also made easy to place on a user and permits effective

lifting of the side barriers 8, 9 during use of the diaper 1, a good fit and a high degree of protection against leaking.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] Each side barrier 8, 9 is thus attached to the top sheet 2 with the Z-shaped configuration at the front end of the respective side barrier 8, 9 (see Figure 1). The Z-shaped portion expediently extends from the front edge 12 of the diaper and at least as far as the front edge of the absorption body 4. However, the invention is not limited to this, and instead the Z-shaped portion can alternatively have another extent.